



UNITED STATES NORTHERN COMMAND

MAR 15 2019

HQ USNORTHCOM/CS
250 Vandenberg Street, Suite B016
Peterson Air Force Base CO 80914-3804

MuckRock News
Mr. Brendan O'Connor
DEPT MR 63404
411A Highland Ave
Sommerville MA 02144-2516

Dear Mr. O'Connor

We received your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated 8 November 2018. Your request was assigned USNORTHCOM FOIA case number 19-R-047. In the request letter, you asked for:

- Any and all talking points and similar memorandums, emails, and transcripts providing advice or direction on how to handle the media, media interviews, and statements pertaining to Operation Faithful Patriot.
- Documents, emails, or communications with the following phrases in the title or subject line: TALKING POINTS; STMT; STATEMENT; PRESS STRATEGY

After performing a search of our systems of records we found one responsive document. Upon review of the document we have determined it to be exempt from mandatory disclosure under FOIA exemption (b)(5) as it pertains to pre-decisional opinions, conclusions and recommendations of agency personnel and withheld because release of the exempted information would inhibit the free and frank exchange of ideas, opinions and recommendations among agency personnel thus interfering with the deliberative process. The authority for this exemption can be found in the United States Code, Title 5, Section 552 (b)(5).

As a requester in the "All Others" fee category, you receive the first two hours and 100 pages of records at no cost. Although we exceeded two hours processing your request, we were unable to meet the 20-day statutory requirement and have assessed no fees. If you have any further questions concerning your request, please do not hesitate to contact our FOIA Request Service Center at the above address.

If you are not satisfied with this action, you have the right to appeal to the appellate authority, Ms. Joo Chung, Director of Oversight and Compliance (ODCMO),

Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD). The appellate address is: ODCMO Directorate for Oversight and Compliance, 4800 Mark Center Drive, ATTN: DPCLTD, FOIA Appeals, Mailbox #24, Alexandria, VA 22350-1700. As an alternative, you may use the OSD FOIA request portal to submit your appeal electronically at the following link: <http://pal.whs.mil/palMain.aspx> or email your appeal to OSD.FOIA-APPEAL@mail.mil. If you use email, please have the words "FOIA Appeal" in the subject of the email. Your appeal should cite our case number 19-R-047, be postmarked within 90 days of the date of this response, and be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal" on the request. You also have the right to seek dispute resolution services from USNORTHCOM's FOIA Public Liaison, Mr. Jim Hogan at (571) 372-0462 or OSD.FOIALiaison@mail.mil. Additionally, you have the right to contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; email at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at (202) 741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at (202) 741-5769.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Gallant", is positioned above the printed name.

RICHARD J. GALLANT
Major General, USA
Chief of Staff